Coordinates: 43.7684°N 11.2556°E

Uffizi

The **Uffizi Gallery** (UK: /juː ˈfɪtsi, ʊ ˈfiːtsi/;[4][5] Italian: **Galleria degli Uffizi**, pronounced [ɡalleˈriːa deʎʎ uf ˈfittsi]) is a prominent art museum located adjacent to the Piazza della Signoria in the Historic Centre of Florence in the region of Tuscany, Italy. One of the most important Italian museums and the most visited, it is also one of the largest and best known in the world and holds a collection of priceless works, particularly from the period of the Italian Renaissance.

After the ruling house of Medici died out, their art collections were gifted to the city of Florence under the famous *Patto di famiglia* negotiated by Anna Maria Luisa, the last Medici heiress. The Uffizi is one of the first modern museums. The gallery had been open to visitors by request since the sixteenth century, and in 1765 it was officially opened to the public, formally becoming a museum in 1865.[6]

Today, the Uffizi is one of the most popular tourist attractions of Florence and one of the most visited art museums in the world, with 4,391,861 visitors in 2019.[7][8]

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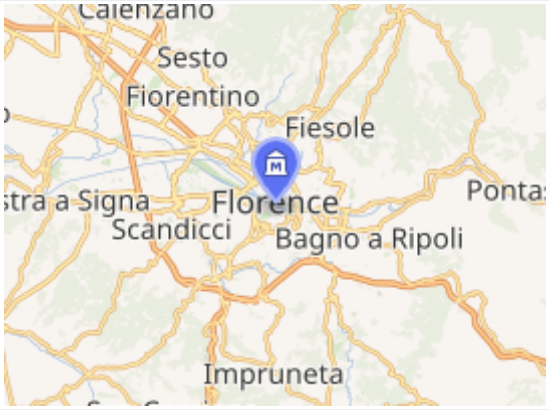
History

The building of the Uffizi complex was begun by Giorgio Vasari in 1560 for Cosimo I de' Medici so as to accommodate the offices of the Florentine magistrates, hence the name *uffizi*, "offices". The construction was later continued by Alfonso Parigi and Bernardo Buontalenti; it was completed in 1581. The top floor was made into a gallery for the family and their guests and included their collection of Roman sculptures.[9]

Uffizi

Narrow courtyard between the two wings of the palace, with view toward the Arno river

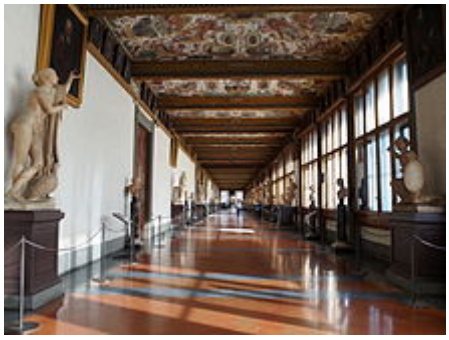


Established	1581
Location	Piazzale degli Uffizi, 50122 Florence, Italy
Coordinates	43.7684°N 11.2556°E
Type	Art museum, Design/Textile Museum, Historic site
Visitors	2.02 million (2016)[1] Ranked 25th globally in 2013[2]
Director	Eike Schmidt[3]
Website	uffizi.it (http://uffizi.it)

The *cortile* (internal courtyard) is so long, narrow and open to the Arno at its far end through a Doric screen that articulates the space without blocking it, that architectural historians[10] treat it as the first regularized streetscape of Europe. Vasari, a painter and architect as well, emphasised its perspective length by adorning it with the matching facades' continuous roof cornices, and unbroken cornices between storeys, as well as the three continuous steps on which the palace-fronts stand. The niches in the piers that alternate with columns of the Loggiato filled with sculptures of famous artists in the 19th century.

Restored Niobe room represents Roman copies of late Hellenistic art. View of daughter of Niobe bent by terror.

The Uffizi brought together under one roof the administrative offices and the Archivio di Stato, the state archive. The project was intended to display prime art works of the Medici collections on the piano nobile; the plan was carried out by his son, Grand Duke Francesco I. He commissioned the architect Buontalenti to design the Tribuna degli Uffizi that would display a series of masterpieces in one room, including jewels; it became a highly influential attraction of a Grand Tour. The octagonal room was completed in 1584.[11]



View of hallway. The walls were originally covered with tapestries.

Over the years, more sections of the palace were recruited to exhibit paintings and sculpture collected or commissioned by the Medici. For many years, 45 to 50 rooms were used to display paintings from the 13th to 18th century.[12]

Modern times

Because of its huge collection, some of the Uffizi's works have in the past been transferred to other museums in Florence—for example, some famous statues to the Bargello. A project was finished in 2006 to expand the museum's exhibition space some 6,000 metres^2 (64,000 ft^2) to almost 13,000 metres^2 (139,000 ft^2), allowing public viewing of many artworks that had usually been in storage.

Visitors observing Michelangelo painting *Doni Tondo*. Uffizi is ranked as the 25th on the most visited art museums in the world, with around 2 million visitors annually.

The Nuovi Uffizi (New Uffizi) renovation project which started in 1989 was progressing well in 2015 to 2017.[13] It was intended to modernize all of the halls and more than double the display space. As well, a new exit was planned and the lighting, air conditioning and security systems were updated. During construction, the museum remained open, although rooms were closed as necessary with the artwork temporarily moved to another location.[14] For example, the Botticelli rooms and two others with early Renaissance paintings were closed for 15 months but reopened in October 2016.[15]

The major modernization project, New Uffizi, had increased viewing capacity to 101 rooms by late 2016 by expanding into areas previously used by the Florence State Archive.[16]

The Uffizi hosted over two million visitors in 2016, making it the most visited art gallery in Italy.[1] In high season (particularly in July), waiting times can be up to five hours. Tickets are available on-line in advance, however, to significantly reduce the waiting time.[12] A new ticketing system is currently being tested to reduce queuing times from hours to just minutes.[17] The museum is being renovated to more than double the number of rooms used to display artwork.[16]

Incidents

Cosimo de' Medici by Luigi Magi and *Andrea Di Cione* (Orcagna) by Niccolò Bazzanti

On 27 May 1993, the Sicilian Mafia carried out a car bomb explosion in Via dei Georgofili and damaged parts of the palace, killing five people. The blast destroyed five pieces of art and damaged another 30. Some of the paintings were fully protected by bulletproof glass.[18] The most severe damage was to the Niobe room and classical sculptures and neoclassical interior (which have since been restored), although its frescoes were damaged beyond repair.

In early August 2007, Florence experienced a heavy rainstorm. The Gallery was partially flooded, with water leaking through the ceiling, and the visitors had to be evacuated. There was a much more significant flood in 1966 which damaged most of the art collections in Florence severely, including some of the works in the Uffizi.[19]

Key works

Sandro Botticelli, *The Birth of Venus* (c. 1484–1486)

- Cimabue: *Santa Trinita Maestà*
- Duccio: *Rucellai Madonna*
- Giotto: *Ognissanti Madonna*, *Badia Polyptych*
- Simone Martini: *Annunciation with St. Margaret and St. Ansanus*
- Ambrogio Lorenzetti: *Presentation at the Temple*
- Gentile da Fabriano, *Adoration of the Magi*
- Paolo Uccello: *The Battle of San Romano*
- Rogier van der Weyden: *Lamentation of Christ*
- Fra Filippo Lippi: *Madonna and Child*, *Coronation of the Virgin*
- Piero della Francesca: *Diptych of Duke Federico da Montefeltro and Duchess Battista Sforza of Urbino*
- Andrea del Verrocchio: *The Baptism of Christ*
- Hugo van der Goes: *Portinari Triptych*
- Sandro Botticelli: *Primavera*, *The Birth of Venus*, *Adoration of the Magi of 1475* and others
- Michelangelo: *The Holy Family (Doni Tondo)*
- Leonardo da Vinci: *The Annunciation*, *Adoration of the Magi*
- Piero di Cosimo: *Perseus Freeing Andromeda*
- Albrecht Dürer: *Adoration of the Magi*
- Raphael: *Madonna of the Goldfinch*, *Portrait of Leo X*
- Titian: *Flora*, *Venus of Urbino*
- Parmigianino: *Madonna with the Long Neck*
- Caravaggio: *Bacchus*, *Sacrifice of Isaac*, *Medusa*
- Artemisia Gentileschi: *Judith and Holofernes*
- Rembrandt: *Self-portrait as a Young Man*, *Self-portrait as an Old Man*, *Portrait of an Old Man*

The collection also contains some ancient sculptures, such as the *Arrotino*, the *Two Wrestlers* and the *Bust of Severus Alexander*.

See also

- Collections of the Uffizi

Notes

1. "Official Italian visitor figures, 2016" (http://www.beniculturali.it/mibac/multimedia/MiBAC/documents/feed/pdf/Tabella-imported-64702.pdf) (PDF).
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6. "Uffizi Gallery Tickets – Museums Tickets Florence Uffizi Gallery" (http://www.florence-museum.com/uffizi-gallery-tickets.php). *www.florence-museum.com*.
7. "MUSEI, TOP 30: COLOSSEO, UFFIZI E POMPEI SUPERSTAR NEL 2019 Franceschini: autonomia funziona, andiamo avanti su percorso innovazione" (https://www.beniculturali.it/mibac/export/MiBAC/sito-MiBAC/Contenuti/visualizza_asset.html_1000300163.html). *www.beniculturali.it* (in Italian). Retrieved 3 July 2020.
8. "L'Esperienza dei primi diretorri dei musei autonom" (http://www.beniculturali.it/mibac/export/MiBAC/sito-MiBAC/Contenuti/visualizza_asset.html_2128864006.html). *www.beniculturali.it*. 13 November 2017.
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10. Sigfried Giedion, *Space, Time and Architecture* (1941) 1962 fig.17.
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12. "Uffizi Gallery Tickets – Museums Tickets Florence Uffizi Gallery" (http://www.florence-museum.com/uffizi-gallery-tickets.php?gclid=Cj0KEQjwkN3KBRCu2fWmy9LLqN4BEiQANP9-WiEJRersqPn3481j_HwsmJ4uOR1qBGGtlTSC0uYlxJYaAlsT8P8HAQ). *www.florence-museum.com*.
13. "Discover the New Halls at Uffizi" (https://www.virtualuffizi.com/new-halls.html). *Virtual Uffizi Gallery*.
14. "History" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150704205233/http://www.uffizi.org/museum/history/). *Uffizi Gallery*. Archived from the original (http://www.uffizi.org/museum/history/) on 2015-07-04.
15. "New Uffizi: The Botticelli & Early Renaissance Rooms Reopen" (http://www.uffizi.org/2383-the-botticelli-rooms-reopen/). Uffizi Gallery. 19 October 2016.
16. "New Uffizi: The Botticelli & Early Renaissance Rooms Reopen" (http://www.uffizi.org/2383-the-botticelli-rooms-reopen/). Uffizi Gallery. 19 October 2016.
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External links

- Official website (http://www.uffizi.it/en)
- Uffizi – Google Art Project (http://www.googleartproject.com/museums/uffizi)
- Uffizi Gallery (http://www.florenceartmuseums.com/uffizi-gallery/)
- Uffizi Gallery Tickets and Tour (https://uffizigalleryticket.com/)

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